(b) the impact on the judicial system due to increase in such cases and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for quick disposal of pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In order to clear the pending cases in various courts, the Government has initiated a number of measures which include, timely filling up of the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength, grouping of cases, involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration, and setting up of special courts, Family Courts and Labour Courts. The Government has also set up Fast Track Courts in Gujarat State and has extended their term upto 31.3.2001 for clearing pending cases at District level.

Filling up of backlog vacancies

3089. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of backlog vacancies as on the 31st March, 2004 in the Ministry and various Departments under the Ministry;

(b) whether the Special Drive was carried out to fill in the above backlog vacancies;

(c) if so, the number of vacancies filled in during the last two years, department-wise; and

(d) the backlog vacancies as on the 31st March, 2006?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) There were twenty (20) backlog vacancies as on the 31st March, 2004 in the Ministry of Law and Justice (Deptt. of Legal Affairs -20, Legislative Department- Nil).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Four.

(d) Sixteen.